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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Confirmation No. 9813
Gerhard COUFAL : Docket No. 2001_0462A
Serial No. 09/830,074 : Group Art Unit 1624
Filed April 23, 2001 : Examiner V. Balasubramanian

METHOD FOR PRODUCING
PURE MELAMINESUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In the response filed September 16, 2003, reference was made to experimental results on pages 7 and 8. Referring to Example 3 of the present invention, the APHA value is given as 5. The two comparative experiments according to the method of Canzi et al. have an immeasurably high value (Example 1) or an APHA value larger than 100 (Example 2).

Regarding Example 3, it is stated that the APHA value is obtained after crystallization.

Between quenching and crystallization, some additional process steps are performed.

These process steps are not recited in main claim 15.

To eliminate any possible issue as to whether the low APHA values are due to these process steps and not due to the invention as claimed, the following experiment was performed.

A sample from a melamine suspension was taken directly after quenching. The suspension was cooled to 20°C, whereby the melamine crystallized. The solid was washed out with a double amount of water. All other process conditions were identical to those in Example 3.

Due to some by-products, the melamine resin was slightly opaque. To facilitate the APHA measurement, some NaOH was added. It is important to note that the NaOH does not

affect the APHA value itself and that the APHA value has nothing to do with the opacity caused by the by-products.

The measured APHA value directly after quenching was 35.

This shows that directly after quenching, i.e. only using process steps from the independent claim, the APHA value is smaller by at least a factor of three in comparison to the APHA values in Examples 1 and 2. This is a clear indication that the claimed invention has an advantage over the prior art. The positive effect on the APHA value could not be expected.

In view of the foregoing taken with the response filed on September 16, 2003, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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